

Parson Thorne Mansion
501 N.W. Front Street
Milford
Kent County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-197

HABS
DEL,
1-MILE,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

AGENDA
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE Delaware	COUNTY Kent	TOWN OR VICINITY Milford
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Parson Thorne Mansion		HABS NO. DE-197
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 501 N.W. Front Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1730-34; main house 1745-50; remodelled 1879	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This house, clearly altered in the late nineteenth century, features exquisite Georgian paneling on the interior. An early owner was Rev. Sydenham Thorne, a co-founder of the town of Milford and builder of the present Christ Church. John M. Clayton, Secretary of State under Zachary Taylor who negotiated the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty with Great Britain, lived here as a boy.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick bearing walls laid in Flemish bond; rear wing wood frame with brick nogging.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Five-part Georgian plan with wings and hyphens. Main house, five bays, center entrance, two-and-a-half stories with one story wings. What appears to be a standard Georgian plan is		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The roof was raised on the main block and two wings, and steeply pitched cross gables put on each. Each cross gable and the gable ends of the main block have pointed-arch windows. The hyphens, recessed from the main block have a triple-arched screen with pendants. First-floor windows in the main block have splayed wooden lintels and keystones. Two-story frame wing is		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) rear is original section. Main block has chair rails, cornice moldings, molded window surrounds, elaborately paneled fireplace walls, cupboards with butterfly shelves; west wing has paneled fireplace wall, although plainer; east wing has large cooking fireplace, beaded ceiling beams, plain interior finish.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1879-exterior altered by raising roof, adding cross gables.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE acquired by Milford Historical Society, 1961		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE (continued from Shape and Dimensions) actually quite unusual: the stairway runs across the south front, west end, and there are only two main rooms in this center block.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register Nomination, listed 1971. Oberlein and Hubbard, <u>Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware</u> (Dover: Public Archives Commission, 1963), pp. 83-85.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Alison K. Hoagland, Historic American Buildings Survey		DATE January 1983

ADDENDUM TO
PARSON THORNE MANSION
501 Northwest Front Street
Milford
Kent County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-197

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013